

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A method for finding a local extrema for a single processing element having a set of values associated therewith ~~comprises~~ includes separating the set of values into an odd set of values and an even set of values, determining ~~an odd~~ a first extrema from the odd set of values, determining ~~an even~~ a second extrema from the even set of values, and determining the local extrema from the ~~odd~~ first extrema and the ~~even~~ second extrema. The ~~odd~~ first extrema is found by comparing each odd-numbered value in the set to each other odd-numbered value in the set and the ~~even~~ second extrema is found by comparing each even-numbered value in the set to each other even-numbered value in the set.